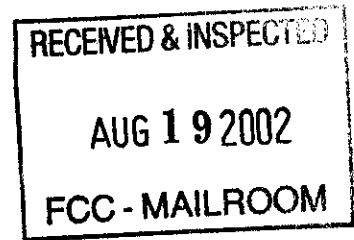


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Gallatin Valley Technology Alliance

January 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Gallatin Valley Technology Alliance whose members represent technology based businesses in the Bozeman area. We formed the Alliance to share common problems and find solutions, and promote the growth of technology jobs in this area.

Our businesses are becoming more reliant upon telecommunications services and therefore access to advanced services at competitive prices is becoming a key component of profitability. We support services and companies working towards greater availability of technology and increased competition among technology providers within the Gallatin Valley.

We know that Qwest is preparing an application to the FCC seeking approval to re-enter the long distance market. GVTA recognizes Qwest as a potential contributor to advanced technology competition in the Gallatin Valley. As such, we encourage the FCC to actively review their efforts and take any reasonable steps that will result in better or more affordable services. We do believe it would be easier to do business with Qwest without the current LATA restrictions.

All of our members understand the dynamics of competition. Although it would be great not to have any, it keeps our products technically fresh and our pencils sharp. If Qwest is going to be successful with long distance freedom, they must respond likewise to the market place.

We ask the Commission to make a priority of reviewing Qwest's application.

Sincerely,

Eric Lindeen
President

cc: Rick Hays - Qwest

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